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Water Quality NewsFlash

June 14, 2004   *Number 04-23*

Construction General Permit – *Hearing June 17th on monitoring requirements*

– The controversial monitoring requirements for the statewide construction general permit will go before the board for final approval. These monitoring specifications are described in the permit Fact Sheet. Two iterations of revisions have been required by court order. Based on testimony at the May 5 workshop, environmental group representatives were not in agreement with the proposed revisions. Their written comments indicate a goal of evaluating water quality standards "end-of-pipe" to determine whether construction site runoff is in compliance with the permit. Discharge mixing zones could be justified in some cases. Caltrans also submitted comments which are addressed on the website together with comments from several other organizations. The latest draft of the requirements, including the Board's response to comments, is posted at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/index.html. This site also includes several Caltrans guidance documents in the section on *Sampling and Analysis Supporting Documents*. The hearing is in Sacramento; live audio is available at: http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/default.asp

Pesticides - *Pyrethroids show toxicity in Central Valley streams*

– Over the years, pesticides which are broad spectrum (affecting many species) or persistent have tended to be banned or severely restricted. For example, most of the once widely-used organochlorine pesticides (chlorinated hydro-carbons) have now been banned. The organochlorines include DDT, chlordane, lindane, aldrin, endrin, dieldrin. Some still remain problems; San Francisco Bay is on the 303(d) list as impaired due to chlordane, DDT, and dieldrin. (Together with mercury and PCBs, these pesticides are considered "legacy pollutants".) The more recently developed organophosphate pesticides (e.g., Diazinon, Chlorpyrifos, Azinphos) have also experienced problems and several have been banned or otherwise restricted by EPA. Diazinon is listed as causing impairment in various state waterways.

The restrictions on organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides have increased the use of another class of pesticides called pyrethroids. An example is permethrin which was first sold in 1973. These pesticides often have the suffix – *thrin*. Recent research reported by UC Berkeley has identified toxicity in stream sediments caused by pyrethroids at relatively low levels (part per billion range). In samples from 42 different Central Valley waterways, 28% exhibited sediment toxicity, and most of this toxicity could be attributed to pyrethroids. This is the first published study on pyrethroids in sediments in agriculture areas. Part of the reason for the lack of research is the unavailability of standardized analytical methods. General information on pyrethrins and pyrethroids: http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp155-c4.pdf   UC Berkeley sediment study: http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2004/05/06_pyrethroid.shtml

Caltrans Annual Report – *Submitted and posted*

– The Annual Report for the 2002/2003 period has been completed and submitted for review to the State Water Resources Control Board. The report is required by the Department's statewide storm water permit and summarizes stormwater control activities. The Department also submitted Regional Workplans describing upcoming activities . http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/annual_report/2004/index.htm#annualreport